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# THE LIBERATED CHINESE WORKERS



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**THE LIBERATED CHINESE  
WORKERS**

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**PICTURE ON THE COVER**

*After China's liberation, the railroad workers demonstrated their labour enthusiasm by restoring, within two short years, railway communications throughout the country. On September 20, 1951, the First All China Model Railway Workers Representative Conference met in Peking. Cover picture shows Peking railway workers welcoming the representatives to this Conference.*

### THE LIBERATED CHINESE WORKERS

The establishment of the People's Republic of China on October 1st, 1949, marked the entry of Chinese history into an entirely new era—that of People's Democracy. As Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese working class and of the Chinese people, has said, "The Chinese who comprise one quarter of humanity have stood up!"

After thirty years of bitter struggle, under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese working class and the Chinese people have succeeded in obtaining the victory in the people's revolution. They are now actively participating in the work of restoring and developing the national economy, and preparing for the large-scale construction that will transform their Motherland from an agricultural into an industrialised country, in its progress towards a Socialist and Communist society.

Although New China has been in existence for only three years, achievements in the various phases of construction are quite unprecedented. The Chinese working class has rid itself from the threats of starvation and unemployment which confronted it in the past; it has emerged from its oppressed and enslaved status as the leading class of our society and nation.

#### **Administering State Affairs**

When the People's Republic of China was established, the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference set down clearly that, "The People's Republic of China is a New-Democratic or a People's Democratic State. It carries out the people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class, based on the alliance of workers and peasants, and uniting all democratic classes and all nationalities in China. It opposes imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism and strives for the independence, democracy, peace, unity, prosperity and strength of China."

*Model industrial worker representatives to the Third Session of the National Committee of the P. P. C. C. in 1951.*



In the past, the Chinese working class had no political rights. But today workers' representatives participate in the people's political consultative conferences and councils of the people's government at all levels; many cadres of working class origin have been promoted to leading positions by the people's governments at various levels. Available statistics for East China show that 7,380 cadres of working class origin now hold leading positions in people's governments above the district level.

Today the Chinese working class enjoys broad democratic rights: it can discuss and make proposals regarding affairs of State and, through the medium of newspapers, openly criticise government personnel. The concern of the Chinese working class over matters of State has helped greatly towards correcting undesirable working methods on the part of some staff members in State organs, and greatly stimulated the advance of various undertakings in national construction.

Contrasting conditions prior to liberation with those of the present, Li Hsi-chen, an old worker in the spinning department of the Tientsin No. 6 National Textile Mill, said, "Before Liberation notices in restaurants and teashops, at the story-teller's stand in the theatres, in fact, in every public place, announced: 'Don't talk politics!' And if someone happened to be caught discussing politics, the least punishment would be a few days in jail, or he might even be liable to capital punishment. Now things are entirely different. Not only do we discuss and criticise affairs of State, but we even take an active part in the management of State affairs."

#### **Workers Are Organised**

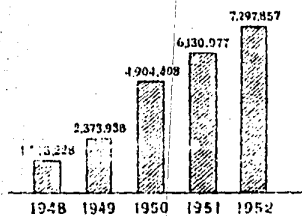
Prior to liberation, the Chinese working class was not free to organise its own trade unions. This right has now



been guaranteed to the working class by law. In June 1950, the Central People's Government promulgated the Trade Union Law which clearly formulates the legal status in society of trade unions as mass organisations of the working class. The Trade Union Law provides that all manual and brain workers whose wages constitute the sole or main means of their livelihood, shall have the right to be organised in trade unions; that trade union committees at all levels shall be elected at meetings of the general membership or of representatives; that the management or owners of enterprises shall inform the trade union organisation in advance of the name of any worker or staff member whom they intend to dismiss, and that the trade union organisation shall have the right to protest, if they find such dismissal in violation of any government decree, or run counter to collective agreement; that, in case of disputes, the trade unions shall have the right to represent the workers and staff members in conducting negotiations or in filing charges against the government. These provisions guarantee to the working class the right to organise trade unions, thereby guaranteeing employment.

Owing to this freedom to organise trade unions, trade union organisations have developed with a nation-wide scope. Over 90 per cent of the industrial workers, and 60-80 per cent of workers in various other enterprises, in both large and smaller cities, have joined trade union organisations. There are at present 13 national committees of industrial trade unions, 11 working and preparatory committees, and more than 100,000 basic organisations. The system of trade union leadership has been established, and membership of the All-China Federation of Labour embraces 7,300,000 persons.

Throughout the country, the trade unions have founded



A graphic illustration of the annual increase in membership in the All-China Federation of Labour.

schools for trade unionists, workers' political universities, training courses for trade unionists, etc. . . The number of trade unionists or activists who have been, or are still, studying in these schools and courses, amounts to more than 110,000.

Today in our country, the trade unions are fulfilling their function of organising and educating the workers. They are guiding the working masses for active participation in the economic construction of New China, as well as in the struggle to create a happy life.

#### **Taking Part in Factory Management**

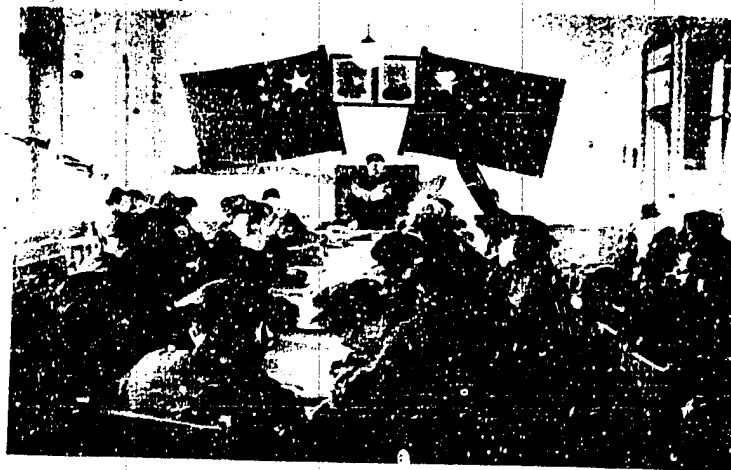
On February 28, 1950, the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government, issued a directive concerning the establishment of factory administrative committees in State and publicly-owned factories. According

to this directive, workers in any industrial or mining enterprise may elect a number of representatives equal to the number representing the management of the enterprise for the organization of a factory administrative committee, which is "an administrative organization of unified leadership in industrial and mining enterprises." The function of such committees is "to discuss and to decide all important matters in relation to production and administration, such as production planning, business transactions, the administrative system, organization of production, appointment and dismissal of personnel, wages and amenities, etc., and to check and sum up all work done regularly, in accordance with the instructions and production planning set forth by the leading organ to which it is subordinated, and in coordination with the actual conditions of the factory."

The participation of workers in production management has developed their productive enthusiasm, and demonstrated their ability in supervisory functions. Through participation, workers have become more and more acquainted with the methods of production management. Consequently, many workers have been qualified for promotion to leading positions in factories.

For instance, in the coal-mining industry, 1,583 workers and staff members have been promoted to factory directors, mine directors, department heads, section chiefs, etc. In East China alone, incomplete statistics show 7,962 workers and staff members being promoted to production-management posts, 2,040 of them to factory directors or assistant directors.

Throughout the country, democratic reforms have been carried out in factories and mines. Administration of enterprises in the Old China consisted of many unreasonable regulations, e.g. searching of workers upon leaving the factory



*The Factory Administration Committee of the Changshu Railway Factory in session, with the director reporting on work done.*

after shifts, unequal pay for equal work, etc. . All these measures were ruthlessly enforced in order to suppress and exploit the workers. Since liberation, the democratic reforms instituted by the people's government have abolished all the old malpractices in such enterprises, and rid them completely of the representatives of this evil system—the feudalistic foremen and counter-revolutionary saboteurs.

The results of these democratic reforms are tremendous: among the transport workers alone, elimination of foremen-gangleaders meant the removal of 75,616 people! The democratic reforms have thus greatly heightened the labour enthusiasm of the working masses.

Private capitalist enterprises must conduct their industry and commerce in accordance with the policies and decrees set forth by the people's government. They must also abide by the Trade Union Law and all decrees concerning labour insurance and labour protection. Labour-capital disputes, if any, are to be settled by the Labour-Capital Consultative Councils and, in the event of failure, through such procedures as government mediation and arbitration, or judicial decision by the courts of law. Private capitalism must bend to the leadership of the working class, and operate its industrial and commercial enterprises within the confines of what is beneficial to the national economy and the people's livelihood.

#### **Wages are Increased and Living Conditions Improved**

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, wages were reasonably adjusted and increased on the principle of "To each according to his work," and "Equal pay for equal work" done by men and women workers. These principles the people's government has step by step put into practice to the benefit of workers in various enterprises throughout the country. In Northeast China, for instance, real wages in 1951 were 135.1 per cent of those of 1948. Additional wages (including culture and education, labour insurance, labour protection, medical care, etc.) were equivalent to 9 per cent of basic wages in 1950, and 11.13 per cent in 1951 with subsidiary wages (comprising various types of special allowances) equivalent to 13.15 per cent of basic wages.

Director's funds come from profits resulting from the overfulfilment of production quotas, and amount generally to 10 per cent of such profits; these funds are used mainly for rewarding the workers or supplying their requirements in

daily life. These figures illustrate how the wages of Chinese workers have been increased since liberation.

In calculating wages, the method of basing their cash value on current commodity prices has been adopted. This method guarantees the identity of nominal wages with real wages, and also safeguards the workers' living standards.

Due to the increase in wages, to the ending of the rampant inflation, which raged for over 10 years under Kuomintang rule, and to the stabilisation of prices, the workers' living standards show marked improvements.

For example, the 22 workers belonging to the Pai Tsing-shan group of the Taiyuan Engineering Plant in Shansi Province, now possess 13 bicycles between them, while prior to liberation they had only four. Now they eat rice and meat regularly, while previously they could afford only corn flour and bean cake. According to an investigation into living conditions of workers in 6 industries at Shihchiachwang, 52.82 per cent of the workers are able to eat rice and white bread at every meal, 46 per cent once a day, and only 1.18 per cent are not able to have them regularly. In 1951, all of them bought new clothes; 5 per cent were able to buy serge or woollen suits. In the railway factories of that city, prior to liberation there was, on an average, one bicycle to every eight workers; in 1951, there was one to every three. The bolts of cloth sold by the worker and staff co-operative of this factory had increased to 550 in 1951, taking the number sold in 1949 as 100. It is clear that the living conditions of Chinese workers from now on will steadily improve still further, in rhythm with the restoration and development of the national economy.

#### **No More Worry About Sickness and Old Age**

In February, 1951, the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government promulgated Labour Insurance Regulations which were put into effect on May 1, 1951.

The Labour Insurance Regulations have basically solved those problems which used to cause workers the greatest anxiety, i.e., maternity, old age, sickness, death, injury, or disability. The Regulations provide that "the management or owners of enterprises shall pay to the Labour Insurance Fund each month a sum equal to 3 per cent of the total payroll of all workers and staff members in the enterprise concerned"; and in the case of sickness or injury incurred whilst at work, the costs of treatment, medicines, hospital fees and fares involved, shall be borne by the management or owners of the enterprise. When a family dependent of a worker or staff member falls ill, he or she may receive free treatment in the clinic or hospital, and the cost of medicines shall be reduced 50 per cent. Workers and staff members shall receive old age benefits on reaching the age of 45, 55 or 60 years, depending upon working conditions, and whether they are detrimental to the workers' health; old-age pensions shall amount to 35 to 60 per cent of the wages formerly earned by the worker, and shall be paid until his death.

The Labour Insurance Regulations contain the following characteristic points: funds for this purpose wholly paid by the management or owners of enterprises; over-all insurance; benefits granted in accordance with actual needs of workers and staff members; Regulations carried out and administered by the trade unions, with the government responsible for supervision and enforcement. The Regulations have thus really solved the workers' difficulties, moreover, they are



*A home for aged workers of the Fushun Coal Mine in Northeast China.*

entirely different from the "labour insurance" in capitalist countries, which, in reality, amounts to another form of exploitation of the working class.

At present, there are more than 2,600,000 workers and staff members throughout the country entitled to benefits provided by the Labour Insurance Regulations; and if their family dependents are included, the number exceeds 10 million. At the same time, 33 sanatoria, 8 rest homes, 14 homes for the disabled and the old, and 130 night-sanatoria have been established for workers and staff members in various parts of the country. The majority of these sanatoria and rest homes are in well-known scenic spots (such as Tsingtao, Paitaiho, West Lake, Lashan, the Summer Palace, etc.).





A home for aged workers of the Fushun Coal Mine in Northeast China.

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After a month or so at these sanatoria or rest homes, workers usually gain 4 pounds or more in weight. Workers who have stayed at the sanatoria say: "Our health has improved greatly, we are nicely tanned by the sun, and we are happy that we are gaining weight." And older workers often say: "Labour Insurance looks after us better than a son would".

#### **Safety First**

In old China, machines were regarded as of more value to the factory management than human beings. Labour conditions were extremely bad and the sickness and death rate among workers was alarming. For instance, before liberation, over 40 per cent of the workers employed in chemical industries were suffering from diseases of the digestive and respiratory organs, and few were able to work consecutively for more than 5 years. The conditions of miners which often led to fatal accidents were even more terrible. In 1937, for instance, over 200 miners were drowned in the No. 1 mine in Hungshan, Shantung. In 1943, 1,300 miners were killed when gas exploded in the Tahsichtsing mine at Penki, Northeast China. And there were such terrible tragedies as the accidents at the Fushun and Hokang mines where 10,000 miners were buried in one pit. Workers depicted their living conditions then with the saying: "Work like cattle, and live like dogs; nobody cares if you're injured, and for the dead there are three hempen ropes and a mat".

Conditions now are entirely different. The people's government is particularly concerned about the health and safety of workers. On the principle of "safety first", various types of equipment have been installed in both factories and mines, contributing to the safety and health of workers. In the railway industry alone, the money spent on safety equipment in 1957 was equivalent in value to 50,000

tons of food grain. The sickness and death rate among workers and staff members has consequently decreased rapidly. The tragedies that occurred before liberation will never be repeated. Today the occupational disease rate in chemical industries is only 0.1 per cent; the temperature in the workshops of textile factories has been greatly reduced. Besides these actual improvements in living conditions, essential nutrition, such as milk, eggs, meat, etc., is provided by the management or owners of enterprises to all workers working in pits, among poisonous fumes in chemical industries, or in places with high temperatures and dust. By these methods, the health of workers is effectively safeguarded.

#### Homes to Live In

The housing problem of workers is also being solved.

*Newly built hostels for women workers of the Chekiang Talc Factory.*



For example, in Northeast China alone, in 1949 workers' quarters with a total floor space of 700,000 square metres were built, to which 1,200,000 square metres were added in 1950 and a further 703,000 square metres in 1951. In Shanghai, over 20,000 people, mostly workers, live in the Shih Hui Yao district. In the old days, when it rained the place would be swampy due to the lack of sewerage, so that the people who lived there would say: "it is better to be put in prison for three years than to live in Shih Hui Yao." But now over 1,000 metres of drain pipes have been installed and 8,400 square metres of macadamised roads built. Now the former slums with their foul-smelling, disease-breeding ditches have changed into livable quarters. Many workers' homes now have radios and gramophones.

#### **Women Workers Have Obtained Equality**

Before liberation the life of women workers in our country was even harder and more difficult than that of men workers. Not only were women workers without any social and political standing, but they constantly had to suffer personal insults, and while doing the same work as men, they received only one-half or two-thirds of the wages paid to men. Moreover, the money which they earned could not be used by them for their own purposes, but was at the disposal of their family heads or husbands.

When they were ill or pregnant, they were threatened with dismissal. At that time, abortion was often resorted to by women workers, while many of them who did not dare to ask for leave, delivered their children in the workshop or in the lavatory. Consequently not only was the death rate of children born in such conditions extremely high, but very often women workers died of post-natal maladjustments.

Today conditions have changed entirely. Socially as



*Women model worker representatives to the National Conference of Model Workers, Model Peasants and Combat Heroes, held in Peking in September 1950.*

well as politically, women workers have the same standing as men, and are paid equal wages for equal work. Many women hold leading positions in the people's government at all levels. Women also hold their own in working complicated machinery in both heavy and light industries. For instance, in Port Arthur and Dairen women workers handle machines in 25 categories of heavy industry, including railways, transportation, machinery, metallurgical works, iron foundries, and ship-building; and in 39 categories of light industry, including textiles, cigarettes, food industries, etc.

Many advanced women workers and labour heroines have been found throughout the country, and many of them have been promoted to leading positions in factory administration. In Mukden, Port Arthur, and Dairen, for instance, over 2,360 women workers and staff members have been made directors, technicians, or leaders of production squads.

Now a fully-paid maternity leave of 56 days is given to women workers. There are 524 factory nurseries throughout the country, and nursing rooms have been set up in larger enterprises.

Women are playing an important role in the construction of New China. The scope of their activities is still expanding.

#### **Eliminating Illiteracy**

Prior to liberation, the Chinese working class was deprived of the right to education. At that time, 60-80 per cent of the workers were illiterate. After liberation, the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government promulgated in June 1950, a directive concerning the extension of spare-time education for workers and staff members, which pointed to the importance of raising their political consciousness, cultural and technical knowledge to a higher level. It further set the task that "Within a period of 3 to 5 years all illiterate workers and staff members shall know about 1,000 characters (ideographs), and shall be able to read popular-style books and newspapers." The directive also provided that those "who are outstanding in learning and want to study further, may sit for entrance examinations for higher schools of political study, such as the People's University, the Marxist-Leninist Institute, etc." Workers attending these schools are entitled to 60-75 per cent of their original wages.



*Women textile workers learning to read and write after working hours.*

The provision relating to the funds for workers' and staff members' education, stipulated by the Trade Union Law, reads: the management or the owners of enterprises "shall each month allocate to their respective trade union organisation, as trade union funds, a sum equal to 2 per cent of the total amount of real wages of all workers and staff members employed. Of this sum, an amount equal to 1.5 per cent of the total amount of real wages shall be used for the purpose of promoting cultural and educational activities for workers and staff members."

As a result, workers' education has been greatly developed. After liberation, workers everywhere have been studying the general lines of the history of social development; those of a higher literacy level have, on their own initiative, organized study groups on political economy, the history of the CPSU (B), and the works of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Those who are completely illiterate or who know very few words are enthusiastically learning to read and write. There are now, throughout the country, more than 2,026,000 workers and staff members who are studying regularly during their spare time.

By 1951, 200,000 workers had become literate, and in 1952, another 700,000 workers will have broken the bonds of illiteracy. At present, the "Quick method of Learning Characters," invented by Chi Chien-hua, (a cultural instructor in the People's Liberation Army) is being adopted as a great help in the mass attack on illiteracy among workers and staff members.

Many district and national trade unions plan to eliminate illiteracy among workers and staff members within 2 to 4 years. The enthusiasm of workers for studying techniques has been heightened. In the railway industry alone, for example, 170,000 workers and staff members are regularly studying technical skills. The workers say: "We want to be active production workers, as well as hard-working students."

#### **They Now Enjoy a Cultural Life**

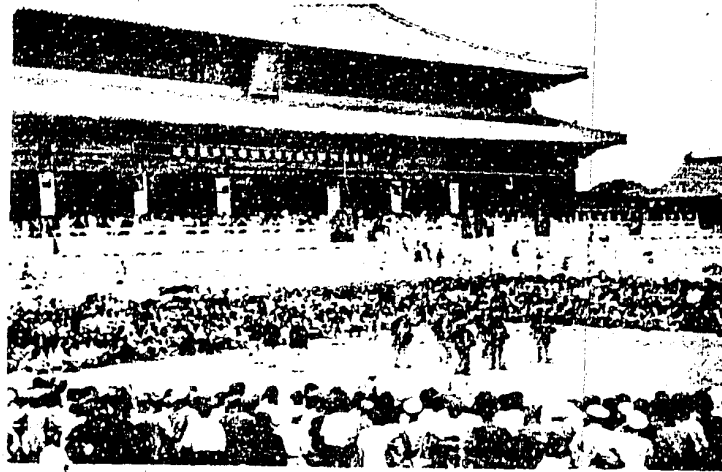
Cultural and recreational activities are rapidly developing among Chinese workers. At present, there are 36 city cultural palaces and clubs throughout the country. Some



of them were formerly the private homes, resorts of bureaucratic capitalists and imperialists. The Workers' Cultural Palace in Peking was the temple where the Manchu Emperor worshipped their ancestors. Throughout the country there are 8,720 trade union clubs, 5,119 trade union libraries, 1,157 mobile libraries, 3,272 singing groups, 8,438 sports groups, 1,267 radio sets which serve as relay stations, and 406 movie projection teams. In many factories and mines, socials with dramatic performances, dances or other similar entertainment, are held every Saturday night.

As Chairman Mao has said: "The era in which the Chinese were regarded as uncivilized is now over. We will emerge in the world as a nation with a high culture."

*The Workers' Cultural Palace in Peking*



#### **Solving the Problem of Unemployment**

In old China, workers suffered from the threat of unemployment; particularly, during the People's Liberation War, large numbers of workers lost their jobs, as a result of the serious damage inflicted on China's industries by the Kuomintang gangsters. In the year of the founding of the People's Republic of China, i.e. 1949, the output in heavy industries was only 30 per cent that of the peak year in production history, while the output in light industries was only 70 per cent. There were two million workers entirely or partially unemployed.

Within a little more than 2 years after the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's industries were recovering and developing at a surprising speed. Taking the production of the peak year as 100, the output in 1951 of cast iron was 64 per cent, and that of steel ingot, coal and electric power 97 per cent, 60.2 per cent, and 94.5 per cent, respectively.

In certain industries, records of the peak year were surpassed. Taking the peak year of production as 100, last year the output of steel was 120, cement 107, tires 196, paper 155, cotton yarn 105.9, cotton cloth 113.5, copper 333, caustic soda 244, soda 124, glass 138. All railway lines have been repaired, and the mileage of new railway construction by the people's government in the year 1951 surpassed that of any year in the past.

As a result of the rapid recovery and development of industry, unemployment is also being rapidly eliminated. The number of unemployed workers, partially unemployed workers and unemployed intellectuals was 1,660,000 in June 1950. By the end of that year the number had decreased to 600,000 and by July 1951, to 450,000.

All those as yet unemployed are either the unskilled, the old, or people in bad physical condition. The shortage of skilled workers is being felt everywhere throughout the country. This is a new feature in the construction of New China. As Sa Fu Chun, an engineer over 68 years of age, who is working on the construction of the Chengtu-Chungking railway, said: "I have lived so long, and yet it is only now that I see our Motherland growing stronger and more prosperous day by day."

#### **Agrarian Reform Offers Unprecedented Markets**

Our country has carried out agrarian reform in an area which comprises an agricultural population of more than 300 million, has thereby abolished feudal land ownership, and established peasant ownership. This has greatly inspired the productive enthusiasm of the peasants.

At the same time, the Central People's Government has allocated huge sums for water conservancy construction. In 1951, the total of earthwork moved was 939 million cubic metres. If this were built into a long dyke, one metre each in width and depth, it would run around the earth at the equator 24 times!

Of all the water conservancy works the most gigantic is the Huai River Project, which will benefit an area of 210,000 square kilometres of land with a population of 55 million and irrigate 40 million (1,600,000 hectares) of farmland.

The People's Government is also leading the peasants in preventive measures against drought and the elimination of blight, so that the peasants will be able to banish famine forever.



*Peasants of the Kanchuan district in Hopei Province produce with enthusiasm on the land allotted to them in the agrarian reform. Bumper cotton crops improve their life greatly. The picture shows the busy market town of Kanchuan.*

These conditions have resulted in the rapid recovery of agricultural production and in abundant harvests. In 1951, the cotton output increased 419 per cent over 1950, oil crops 27 per cent, cured tobacco 440 per cent, ramie 98 per cent, grain 66 per cent. Grain production has reached 92.8 per cent of the peak year in production history, while the cotton yield has exceeded the highest production figures by 33 per cent, cured tobacco by 30.5 per cent and ramie for gunny bags by 127.1 per cent.

As a result of land reform, the organisation of peasants in mutual-aid teams and producers' co-operatives, and the

recovery of agricultural production, the purchasing power of the peasants has greatly increased.

For instance, in Northeast China, the average purchase of cloth per head was four yards in 1949, ten yards in 1950, and 13.3 yards in 1951.

That is to say that, with an expanding domestic market for industrial goods, workers have many more opportunities for employment.

#### **The Patriotic Emulation Drive**

The Chinese working class realizes that it is the leading class in the State. Thus its attitude to labour has undergone a fundamental change. This change is manifested mainly in patriotic emulation campaigns. Since liberation, workers in industries throughout the country have enthusiastically launched many such emulation drives. Available statistics for the first half of 1951 show that 2,233,887 workers and staff members have joined patriotic emulation drives. In these campaigns, workers have not only demonstrated their great labour enthusiasm, but have also by their creative energy and initiative solved all kinds of difficulties in raising production. In 1951, workers throughout the country put forward altogether 147,670 rationalization proposals.

Many model workers have come forward from these emulation campaigns. In 1951, China had 86,541 model workers. These model workers have created numerous records without parallel in production history.

For instance, railway locomotive set a record haulage of 7,207.9 tons; coal consumption in electric generators was reduced to 0.485 kilogram per kilowatt hour. In the coal

industry, Ma Lin-hai's method of "multi-travelling in the cycle of coal cutting" has more than doubled the previous excavation speed. In the clothing manufacturing industry, by improving the organization of the labour process, Chiang Wan-shou raised production 62 per cent above the previous level. In the textile industry, the famous girl spinner Ho Chien-hsiu has reduced roller waste to 0.25 per cent. If this standard is applied throughout the country, 44,400 more bales of yarn will be produced within a year.

*Workers of the No. 6 workshop in the Mukden Machinery Plant No. 2, having overfulfilled their production quota for the 3rd quarter in 1951 by 7 per cent and thereby created extra wealth equivalent in value to 75,613 tons of food grains for the State, are preparing a report on their success for Chairman Kuo Kang of the Northeast People's Government.*



Due to the enthusiasm and creative energy of the workers, labour productivity has also been greatly raised. Productivity in the coal industry has risen by 188 per cent that of the pre-liberation period; in Northeast China, the productivity of workers is now 142 per cent above that of the pre-liberation peak year. It must also be pointed out here that, in 1951, in Northeast China the working class created extra wealth amounting to 14 million tons of grain in addition to fulfilling the original production plan, through improved work methods and labour organisation.

In terms of equipment for production this value would be sufficient to set up 50 textile mills with 50,000 spindles each; or, if used for workers' welfare, the amount would construct 314,000 houses for workers with families of five.

The deeds of the liberated Chinese working class show clearly that, when the workers realise they are working for the Motherland, they are working for themselves and their own bright future, their labour becomes voluntary and joyous, and therefore they work with zeal.

As Chairman Mao said: "Once China's destiny has been grasped by the people's own hands, China will shine like the rising sun, casting its radiance over all the land."

**Resist American Aggression. Aid Korea. Defend Peace!**

Through their raised political status and their improved living conditions, through the striking contrast between pre-liberation and post-liberation days, the Chinese workers know that the People's Republic of China is a people's State. Consequently they will oppose anyone who threatens their Motherland, and they are actively taking part in the fight for peace. In 1951, when the World Peace Council called



*Railway workers in Peking signing their names  
to the Peace Appeal of the World Peace Council.*

for the conclusion of a Five Power Peace Pact and opposed the remilitarization of Japan by American imperialism, over 90 per cent of the Chinese workers signed their names in support of these two big campaigns.

Railway workers and staff members obtained more than 2,500,000 signatures from travellers on trains. One woman, holding her child, signed her name saying: "I must sign for the happiness of our children."

Therefore, when the American imperialists began their aggressive war in Korea, and were pushing forward to our border, seriously threatening our peaceful construction and our security, the Chinese working class and the Chinese



people gave wholehearted support to the Movement to Resist American Aggression and Aid Korea. Young workers spontaneously enrolled in the People's Volunteers, and there were many cases where wives sent their husbands, and parents their sons or daughters to join the Volunteers to aid the Korean people. All took this to be their sacred duty.

In order to support the Chinese People's Volunteers fighting side by side with the Korean People's Army at the Korean front, workers in all enterprises actively collected donations for planes, for heavy artillery equipment and for all kinds of things which the Volunteers needed. They also enthusiastically launched patriotic emulation drives.

Recently the American imperialists launched bacteriological warfare on peaceful citizens in Korea in open violation of all international laws, and even extended this inhumane weapon to our territory. From February 29th to March 5th, 68 groups of American aircraft comprising 448 planes, at different times flew over our territory in the Northeast, dropping germ-laden insects.

That it is the deliberate plan of the American imperialists to murder the Chinese and Korean people inhumanely and to extend the Korean war, has become clear. The Chinese workers are highly indignant at these monstrous crimes, and are in practical deeds doing their utmost to support the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army, thus dealing the American aggressors a telling blow.

No matter how ruthless the American imperialists are, facts have shown clearly that by their unity the forces of peace can defeat aggressive war and American imperialism.

Under the leadership of their great leader, Chairman Mao Tse-tang and the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese working class and people have the confidence, determination

and strength to stop American imperialist aggression so that the fruit of our victory already won may be safeguarded.

The world camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union, is gaining strength day by day. The solidarity of the workers throughout the world, led by the World Federation of Trade Unions, is being strengthened and broadened. Our Motherland is growing stronger and more prosperous. The life of our people is becoming happier and happier. We firmly believe that the cause of lasting peace and a people's democracy will win final victory.

Workers of the world, unite and struggle for a lasting peace!

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